NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b) The Joint Statement signed by the Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Government of the United States of America at the time of the visit of the latter to India from 13 to 22 April, 1987 (para 6) reads as follows:—

> The Secretary and the Minister discussed the significance of Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome as a World Health problem. Both Governments recognise the importance of surveillance of high-risk population for this disease in their respective countris and of halth education programmes to assure that the public is fully knowledgeable about the modes of transmission and the risks involved. It was agreed that the two countries will cooperate on this problem.
>
> The details of cooperation are yet to be finalised.

Criteria for leasing out of Railway land

*293. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the criteria for leasing out the surplus Railway land in the Union Territory of Delhi for various purposes viz. commercial purposes, shopping centres, godown/stording of goods and under the grow food scheme, etc., to private individuals, voluntary organisations and cooperative societies;

(b) whether it is a fact that several hundred acres of surplus lands are lying vacant and unutilised since decades in Union Territory of Delhi; and

(c) if so, what action Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The system of leasing of Railway land to private individuals, voluntary organisations and cooperative societies, etc., has been stopped from November 1982 onwards in pursuance of the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee.

(b) Yes, Sir. The present vacant Railway land is meant for future developmental requirements of the Railway.

(c) This vacant land would be progressively utilised by Railway in due course.

Purchase of Anti T.B. drugs under National Health Programme

*294. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently purchased Ethambutol, as anti T.B. drug under National Health Programme;

(b) whether it is a fact that no order was placed on small scale units despite the fact they offered lower price for the drug; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) on what basis orders were placed on big companies ignoring small scale and public sector units producing this drug?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Three firms were on rate contract with the D.G.S. & D. during 1986-87 and orders were placed on the firm with the lowest quotation.